

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 4-12 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-21 are pending for further examination.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 13-16, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,355,302 "Martin") in view of Richardson (U.S. Pat. 6,054,987 "Richardson"). For at least the following reasons, Applicant believes that the pending claims, as amended, are allowable over the prior art of record. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination taught by Applicant's amended claim 1 is not present in the prior art of record. Certain elements of the claimed combination are present in neither Martin nor Richardson, and would only be known if Applicant's own claims were used as a guide. For example, neither Martin nor Richardson teaches "wherein an operator responsible for the management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device can remotely access the screens."

According to the Office Action "Martin teaches a central management system 11 remotely directing a server to interact with a further remote device 12 in which the central management system 11 remotely interacts with a further remote device 12 for updating/managing purposes of remote content libraries at various locations/network sites." Applicant respectfully disagrees with this characterization of Martin.

Applicant notes that Martin contains no reference number 12, but Applicant assumes the Office Action was referring to reference number 13, referencing the jukebox with which the central management system interfaces. If Applicant is correct in this assumption, then Applicant respectfully points out that Martin repeatedly discloses direct communication between the central management system 11 and a remote jukebox 13. (Col. 3, lines 26-30; Col. 5, lines 63-66; Col. 6, lines 19-24). Martin, however, does not disclose what Applicant has hereby claimed, namely “wherein an operator responsible for the management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device can remotely access the screens.” Not only does Martin fail to teach an operator, as the Office Action correctly notes, but Martin also does not teach *remote access* of a management system, which then further manages a remote device. Nothing in Martin indicates or discloses that the central management system *remotely* directs a server to further interact with a further remote device.

Applicant respectfully points out that Martin specifically states “the central management system 11 *includes* a host computer 21 which maintains a master library 23 of songs and associated graphics which are stored in a compressed digital form in a bulk storage unit 25” (Col. 3, lines 36-40) (emphasis added). Applicant submits that this means that the central management system of Martin, which has the master library included therein, is directly interacting with the remote jukeboxes, as opposed to remotely instructing a further system to interact with the remote jukeboxes.

Richardson does not make up for this shortcoming of Martin, as Richardson also teaches “different manufacturers’ equipment can be monitored and controlled from a management system, such as a UNIX server” (Col. 1, lines 13-15). This teaching is followed by “*From the NMM console*, a user is able to ...” (Col. 1, line 46) (emphasis added). Richardson, like Martin, does not teach *remote access* of a management system. Even if Richardson is said to provide a user accessing the system, Richardson does not teach that the user “can remotely access the screens,” as in amended claim 1.

As both Martin and Richardson at least fail to teach the claimed “wherein an operator responsible for the management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device can remotely access the screens,” Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

As a further example of a claim element missing from the prior art of record, Applicant’s claimed “a first series of screens that the operator can use to modify the operating parameters, which control the audiovisual information reproduction devices, of each selected audiovisual information reproduction device, by sending, via the server to each selected audiovisual information reproduction device, a modification command file generated by the server by using information from the database” is not taught by Martin or Richardson. Operating parameters are parameters such as song cost, volume, bass, treble, etc. Neither Martin nor Richardson teaches modifying operating parameters of a remote audiovisual information reproduction device by sending a modification command file generated by the server using information from the database.

Martin teaches modifying the available music selections on a given remote jukebox (Col. 6, lines 19-32), but does not teach modifying the operating parameters of a jukebox by sending a modification command file generated by the server using information from the database.

According to the Office Action, Richardson, which was introduced to compensate for the noted deficiency of Martin, “discloses a GUI interface which allows ‘a user’, i.e. network administrator to dynamically configure/manage remote network sites via series of screens (see Fig. 3-6). This combination would result of having Martin’s system to be able of having an ‘Operator’ using a GUI interface manually controls/manages plurality of remote devices (see Fig. 5-6; Col.5, lines 1-52).” While Applicant agrees that Richardson discloses a GUI, Applicant respectfully submits that Richardson does not disclose “a first series of screens that the operator can use to modify the operating parameters, which control the audiovisual information reproduction devices, of each selected audiovisual information reproduction device, by sending, via the server to each selected audiovisual information reproduction device, a modification command file generated by the server by using information from the database.”

According to the cited portion of Richardson, Richardson teaches allowing a user to dynamically designate groupings of devices attached to a network. Richardson, however, does not teach modification of the operating parameters of those devices by sending a modification command file generated by the server by using information from the database. Also, in the Background section, Richardson discloses “configuration

management” with respect to network management, but does not teach modifying the operating parameters of a particular network device by sending a modification command file generated by the server by using information from the database. Thus, Richardson does not cure the shortcomings of Martin with respect to this limitation, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Additionally, as a third example of an element missing from the applied references, Applicant notes that Martin does not disclose “...a database containing ... a set of possible operating parameter configurations” as claimed in amended claim 1.

According to the Office Action, Martin discloses “...a database containing... a set of possible configurations (whether to replace/update specific song; available storage and available size...)” Applicant respectfully submits that “whether to replace/update a specific song, available storage and available size” are not operating parameters as described by Applicant in the specification. Operating parameters are parameters such as song cost, volume, bass, treble, etc. Available storage and size are determined by an installed device size and the present contents thereof are not operating parameters as claimed by Applicant. Whether to replace/update a specific song falls under the previous claim element “a set of available musical selections which can be consulted and modified by the server.” Applicant’s review of Martin has revealed no teaching that possible operating parameter configurations are stored in the database of Martin.

The addition of Richardson does not cure this defect of Martin. Richardson teaches network devices added to a topology database, but Richardson does not teach that

database including "a set of possible operating parameter configurations." Thus, for at least this reason as well, Applicant believes amended claim 1 to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-21 should be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 1.

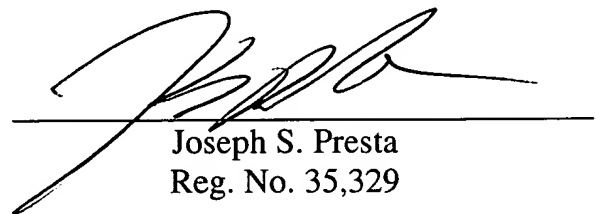
Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-21, as amended, are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons presented herein. Applicant believes that all pending claims clearly and patentably distinguish the prior art of record. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-21 be withdrawn and that claims 1-21 be allowed.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this case, or deem that any formal matters need to be addressed prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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